

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-7, 9, 11-13, 15 and 17-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-7, 9, 11-15 and 18-20 are amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1-3 and 5-6 may be found at least at paragraphs [0097]-[0108] of the specification and in Figs. 4 and 5. Claims 4-7, 9, 11-13 and 18-20 are amended for formalities. No new matter is added by the above amendments. In view of at least the following, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

**I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3-7, 12, 18 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,892,493 (Enami) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,079,130 (LeChevalier-130) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,006,067 (Tobita);<sup>1</sup> rejects claims 2 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Enami in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,113,134 (Plus) and further in view of Tobita; rejects claims 9, 13, 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Enami in view of LeChevalier-130 and Tobita and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,861,810 (Rutherford);<sup>2</sup> and rejects claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Enami in view of Plus and Tobita and further in view of Rutherford. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Office Action relies on applied references that were previously discussed at length in prior Office Actions. Here, the Office Action asserts that Tobita cures the deficiencies of the previously disclosed applied references, by allegedly teaching test lines that are shared with precharge signal supply lines for form a shared line that extends at least from a connection with the at least one data line at the first and second switches along one

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that although the Office Action only identifies claims 1, 3-7, and 12 as being rejected; however, the Office Action also addresses claims 18 and 20-22 in this section.

<sup>2</sup> Please note that although the Office Action cites U.S. Patent No. 6,594,130, based on the context of the Office Action, we believe the Examiner intends on rejecting these claims over LeChevalier-130.

line toward a precharge signal-generating circuit and an output of the detection signal.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Tobita discloses complementary signal lines CL and CR and complementary data lines DL and DR. It is an instruction signal SELF that connects these lines to one another. Further, precharge/equalizing circuit PEQ includes an N channel MOS transistor 34 that is rendered conductive, upon activation of precharge/equalizing signal  $\phi_{PE}$ , to electrically short-circuit complementary signal lines CL and CR. *See* Tobita at col. 12, lines 61-64. Throughout the specification of Tobita, it is necessary to send and receive signals via a number of switches and the use of multiple lines. The presently claimed combination of features expressly recites the use of a single line to send and receive signals. Tobita uses more than one line to accomplish its objectives.

Thus, the applied references, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or render obvious the presently claimed combination of features.

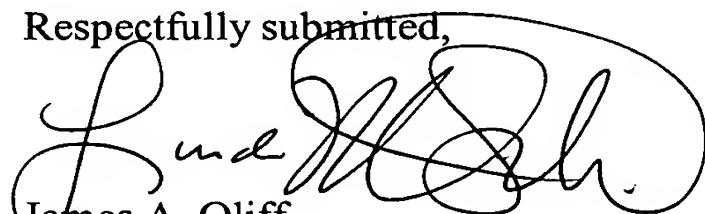
Claims 4, 7, 9-13, 15 and 17-22 variously depend from claims 1-3 and 5-6. Because the applied references fail to anticipate or render obvious the features recited in independent claims 1-3 and 5-6, dependent claims 4, 7, 9-13, 15 and 17-22 are patentable for at least the reasons that claims 1-3 and 5-6 are patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite.

**VI. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination

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